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Abstract of the Disclosure

There is described a process for the preparation of 5-carboxy phthalide, which comprises adding terephthalic acid to fuming sulfuric acid containing at least 20% of SO_3 , then adding formaldehyde to the mixture, heating the mixture at a temperature of $120\text{-}145^\circ$ C and isolating 5-carboxyphthalide from the reaction mixture.

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